

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA
HAMMOND DIVISION**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

v.

CAUSE NO.: 2:19-CR-115-2-TLS-JPK

CASSANDRA VIXAMA

ORDER ACCEPTING FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATION

This matter is before the Court on the Findings and Recommendation of the United States Magistrate Judge [ECF No. 96], filed on June 11, 2020. No objections were filed, and the time to do so has passed.

The Court finds that the change of plea conducted by video teleconference complies with Section 15002(b)(2)(A) of the CARES Act. First, General Order 2020-08 authorized video conferencing for felony pleas under Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11, finding that such hearings cannot be conducted in person without seriously jeopardizing public health and safety as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Second, the Court finds that the Defendant's felony plea in this case cannot be delayed without serious harm to the interests of justice due to Defendant's desire to admit her guilt, plead guilty, and proceed to sentencing in a timely manner and the government and public interest in timely processing criminal matters. The Defendant was arrested on October 31, 2019. ECF No. 27. She has been detained awaiting trial since that date. ECF Nos. 31, 32. An Indictment was filed against the Defendant on September 19, 2019. ECF No. 1.

Finally, the Defendant consented to video teleconferencing after consultation with counsel. *See* CARES ACT § 15002(b)(4). On June 11, 2020, the Defendant orally waived her

right to appear in person and also filed a signed, written consent to proceed by video teleconferencing. ECF Nos. 96, 99.

The Court being duly advised, ADOPTS the Findings and Recommendation [ECF No. 96] in its entirety and ACCEPTS the recommended disposition. Subject to this Court's consideration of the Plea Agreement pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 11(c), if applicable and necessary, the pleas of guilty to the offenses charged in Counts 7 and 8 of the Indictment are hereby ACCEPTED, and the Defendant is adjudged GUILTY of the offenses.

The Sentencing Scheduling Order scheduling sentencing-related deadlines and hearings will be issued by separate order.

SO ORDERED on July 29, 2020.

s/ Theresa L. Springmann
JUDGE THERESA L. SPRINGMANN
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT